

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01660 241357 Z

47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 RSR-01 ( ADP ) W

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R 232353 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6982

INFO GOV PANCANAL

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USCINCSO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1660

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PN UN

SUBJ: TORRIJOS PUBLIC REACTIION TO UNSC

SMMARY: TORRIJOS' O N- AGAIN, OFF- AGAIN PRESS CONFERENCE EVOLVES INTO GROUP " EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW. HE INTIMATES PANAMANAIAIAN PEOPLE GLAD TO HAVE U. S. VETO IN OPEN; SAYS HE WILL CONSULT WITH PANAMANIAN PEOPLE ABOUT NEXT TREATY STEP; REPORTS A SHIFTING IN PANAMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY; AND DISCOURAGES VIOLENT REACTION FROM PANAMNAIANS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE OF FRANTIC EVENTS OF MARCH 21 CLOSING DAY OF UNSC IN PANAMA, TORRIJOS CALLED MIDDAY JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PERU FONMIN DE LA FLOR. TORRIJOS POSTPONED UNTIL LATE IN AFTER-NOON HIS PORTION OF CONFERENCE, LEAVING DE LA FLOR TO GO ON ALONE. TORRIJOS LATER POSTPONED HIS CONFERENCE UNTIL FOLLOWING MORNING. EVENING OF MARCH 21, AFTER VOTE ON SC RESOLUTIONS, TORRIJOS GAVE TELEPHONE INTERVIEW TO EFE CORRESPONDENT. ( REF USINFO MARCH 22, MEDIA REACTION). PRESS CONFERENCE NEVER MATERIAL-IZED BUT TORRIJOS DID GRANT " EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW" AT HOME OF HIS ASSOCIATE RORY GONZALES TO AP, UPI, COLUMBIA CADENA CARACOL PRESS REP, ROMANIAN RADIO, PANAMANIAN CHANNEL 2, AND TELESYSTEMA MEXICANE. PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO U. S. GONZALES REVILLA WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 01660 241357 Z

PRESENT AT INTERVIEW. SYNTHESIS OF TORRIJOS' REMARKS AT THESE INTERVIEWS FOLLOWS.

2. TORRIJOS WAS NOT SURPRISED BY VETO, ": WHAT WAS SHOWN TO HUMANITY IN THE COUNCIL THROUGH ITS LEADERS WAS THE FIRST VETO OF THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE, BUT FOR US IT WAS VETO NO. 71, SINCE FOR 70 YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN VETOING OUR CAUSE IN NEGOTIATIONS HELD IN DARK ROOMS AT THE DEPT OF STATE".

3. TORRIJOS SAID PANAMA MUST NOT BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ONE WHO VETOS, HE SAID " THEIR POSITION IS HARD, CONTINUES TO BE HARD; THEY WILL BE WILLING TO CONTINUE VETOING US... IT IS NOT EASY TO GET RID OF A COLONIAL ENCLAVE WHICH HAS BEEN IN BEING FOR 70 YEARS, BUT ALSO WE MUST BE AWARE THAT NOTHING LAST FOREVER." TORRIJOS SAID HE HAS BEGUN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE 505 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO DETERMINE PANAMA' S NEXT STEP REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE GENERAL SAID THERE WILL HAVE TO BE CERTAIN CHANGES IN PANAMA' S FOREIGN POLICY. " WE WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNGRATEFUL IF WE DID NOT BECOME FRIENDS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SO WARMLY AND WITHOUT PUTTING FORTH ANY CONDITIONS, SHOWED THEIR SUPPORT."

5. AFTER HIS INTERVIEW WITH NEWSMEN, TORRIJOS TAPED A MESSAGE FOR THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, PRAISING THEM FOR THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING. " VIOLENCE LEADS NOWHERE. BESIDES, VIOLENCE, LIKE THE VETO AND IMPOSITIONS, ARE WEAPONS USED BY NATIONS WHO ARE NOT RIGHT, AND THOSE WHO ARE RIGHT-- IN THIS CASE SUPPORTED BY THE ENTIRE WORLD-- DO NOT NEED TO USE SUCH RESOURCES." TORRIJOS HAD INDICATED DURING THE INTERVIEW THAT PANAMA WILL CONTINUE ITS STRUGGLE KNOWING THAT IT DOES NOT STAND ALONE. WHEN ASKED IF HE EXPECTED REPRISALS FROM THE USG, TORRIJOS REPLIED " ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE AFTER THEY DARE TO USE THE VETO FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LA. UNDOUBTEDLY, IT WILL NOT BE EASY-- BECAUSE THE PEOPLE IN THE U. S. DO HAVE A SENSE OF SHAME TO TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST A COUNTRY WHICH HAS SHOWN THAT IT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE WORLD' S CONSCIENCE." GREEN OF AP MISUNDERSTOOD THIS QUESTION AND REPORTED A PORTION OF THE ABOVE QUOTE AS REFERING TO WHETHER OR NOT PANAMA WOULD TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST THE U. S.

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 01660 241357 Z

6. COMMENT. TORRIJOS CLEARLY IS ATTEMPTING TO DAMP THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENT PUBLIC REACTION TO THE U. S. VETO. THE FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE LIKEWISE CALLING FOR CALM AS PANAMA CONSOLIDATES ITS STRUGGLE. THE EXCUSE OF CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE PROVIDES THE GOP WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO SORT OUT ITS NEXT MOVE WITH REGARD TO TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT APPEARING TO FAIL TO FOLLOW UP ON ITS UN " VICTORY". AS PART OF THE CHANGE IN PANAMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY THE GOP HAS ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GUINEA, BULGARIA, BUYANA, AND LIBYA WITHIN THE THE LAST THREE DAYS. TACK INDICATED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THIS PROCESS WILL EVENTUALLY INCLUDE ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, I. E. USSR, CUBA AND CHINA. KEY FIGURE IN CURRENT EXPANSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS NEW DIRECTOR OF DIPLOMATIC DEPT AT FONOFF JORGE APARICIO WHO RETURNED IN FEBRUARY FROM VISIT TO EUROPE AND AFRICA WHERE HE SOUGHT BROADEN PANAMANIAN TIES. SAYRE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, n/a, UN  
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GOV PANCANAL  
MEXICO  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
USCINCSO  
USUN NEW YORK  
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